A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, April 11. 1710.

SOME People in the World have so particular Inclination to dislike every thing, that really, if they have nothing just before them to exercise their Petulance, they will *fall out with themselves*—Just thus, I think it fares at this time with this Nation; and it would be a good piece of Service to them, if any of our wonderful Operators would but undertake the Cure of this National Perverseness.

For my part, I can't pretend to the Cure, I'll leave that to the Learned; but I may talk a little to you of the Disease, and draw the Picture of the Thing for you. Perhaps if we could but artfully enough describe the Uglineſs and Deformity of the Thing it self, we might stamp some Aversions in Mens Minds to it——By the Doctrine of Idea's it is allow'd, That to Describe a Thing, Ugly, Horrid and Deform'd, is the best way to get Abhorrence in the Minds of the People——and this was the Method of the great Men in the East, in the Ages of Hieroglyphicks, when Things were more accurately Describ'd by Emblems and Figures than Words; and even our Saviour himself took this Method of Introducing the Knowledge of himself into the World, (*viz.*) By Parables and Similitudes.

But by what Hierogliphick shall we describe *the present Madness* of this Age? What Emblem shall we bring *to set it forth*, or to use the Words of our Saviour, (to the

the Case is serious enough) *Whereunto shall we liken this Generation?*

Britain seems to me, Represented by a Fine House, exquisitely Built, admirably Scituated, the Rooms compleatly Finished, the Lights Spacious, the Avenues Pleasant, the Furniture Rich ——the Gardens Fine, Seated on the Bank of a Noble and Navigable River, near the Sea —— In short, a very Noble and Antient Seat; indeed the late Possessors had let it run to Ruin, neglected and abus'd it; but it was lately re-built and restor'd, *not to its former Beauty only*, but to a Degree of Glory, which it never arrived to before; and this by a certain Forreign Prince, tho' he was little more than Tenant for Life, and held it but a short while.

It appears Inhabited now, by a Numerous Family, under the exquisite Conduct of a certain Lady, of the Ancient and Royal Blood of the BRITANNIA's; She has liv'd in it but a few Years, as Mistress of the House, but in that time, she has exceedingly improv'd the Building, Enlarg'd the out Housing, and Extended the Gardens; and tho' she has been much taken up, with a Troublesome and Perplexing *Law Suit*, with an Envious and Powerful Neighbour, *which has been very Chargeable to her*, yet she has really added much to the Glory and Lustre of the House, and to the Wealth, Safety and Pleasure of her whole Family.

I could give you a Description, of her very pretty Government within Doors; the Beautiful Oeconomy of her House, the Fidelity and Dexterity of her Servants, her Stewards, her Overseers, her Officers within Doors, and without; the Orders in her Kitchen, her Cellars, her Granaries, her Armoury, her Stables, her Accounts, her Chapels, her Closets or Cabinets, and of all the rest of her Management —— *But that*, the unhappy part of her Story, leaves no relish for Panegyrick.

The Family this Lady kept, her Children, the Strangers she Entertain'd, and indeed her whole Retinue were known over the whole Country, for their extraordinary Qualifications, Gallant, Generous, Brave, Wealthy and Numerous: Her Sons were Wise, Valiant, Learned and Industrious; her Daughters Beautiful, Witty, Chast and Pleasant; her Servants Faithfull, Diligent, Capable and Carefull —— And thus she liv'd in great Prosperity.

BUT Hell Rag'd to see her uninterrupted Felicity, and too Successfully put a Check to it, by Sowing a miserable and fatal Dissention among the very Children of the Family; which afterwards drew in the Servants, the Tenants, and Dependents, and embroil'd the whole House.

Her Children, as they are Nobly and Free-born, so they were all Religiously and Vertuously Educated —— it could not be otherwise, the Head of the Family being her self exceedingly Pious and Devout —— They were also All of one Religion, but they differ'd among themselves in some Modes of Worship, things not of such Moment, as that they need have bred such Strife among them — The Elder Children, both Sons and Daughters, follow'd the Manner of their Lady-Mother, and Governour; and, being more in Number, would have oblig'd the Lady to have used her Authority with their Brothers and Sisters, and have compell'd them to keep to the old Way, and to suffer but one Kind of Worship in the Family —— But several of the Younger Children, who were also very Sober, and whom their Mother had great Affection to, being Scrupulous and Uneasie, declar'd they could not join in the Publick Worship of the House, and therefore claim'd a Liberty to Worship in their Own Way, and carried it so high, that they really Separated, would not come to the Great Chapel above-stairs, but met together privately, in Chambers or *By-Corners* of the House.

The Lady of the Family consulting with her most faithful Servants, willing to bear with these her Younger Children, and above all, careful of the Peace of her Family —— Agreed to part them, and allow these Dissenting Children to enjoy their Liberty, restraining the other from using any Violent or Unkind Methods with them; However, to satisfie and encourage the other, she kept the Old Way, as the Principal Worship of the House, or *Family Religion*;

ligion; kept constantly to it herself, gave 'em the Sole Use of her Great Chapel; Nay, she would not admit any into Offices or Places of Trust in the whole Family, but such as were of her own Perswasion; *but still* the other enjoy'd their Liberty, *and thus it stood with the Family*: One part Worshipped God in one End of the House, and one in the other; but as to Civil Affairs, by the Prudence, Moderation and good Government of the Mistress of the House, they agreed *pretty well*, and all things went on prosperously enough. When on a sudden, a new and unhappy Breach, fell out among them, which in spight of all the Pious Endeavours of this Good Lady, and her most Faithful Servants, came to that height, that her Children went all together by the Ears, her Servants Divided some this Way, some that; and so mad and ungovern'd were they in their Rage, that two or three times, *they set the House on Fire*, and had it not been for the Courage, Presence of Mind, and Excellent Management of the Lady, and some of her Head Servants, with the Assistance of some of her Tenants, who took Arms and came in, and parted the Mad Yound Foolish People, *and so got the Fire out*, there was great Reason to Fear, that Fine Beautiful House would have been burnt quite down.

This you may be sure has put all the Sober part of the Family in a great Consternation, and indeed they are still very Anxious about it, and Watchfull; for tho' the Animosity is not at all lessen'd, tho' the Power and Authority of the Great Mother of them all, *has parted the Fray*, and kept them asunder —— The Elder Children indeed began this Fray, and did it upon a very Foolish Account, *that's the Truth of it, viz.* By taking part with a Furious Haughty and Insolent Priest, one of the Chaplains of the House—— This Clergy Man had taken Occasion to Abuse and Affront his Mistress, and Reproach her with being partial to the Younger Children—— And having first falsly charg'd them with a Design to Encroach upon, and pull down the Ancient Worship, and to Introduce their New Way into the Great Chapel of the Family—He fell foul upon his Lady, for Encouraging them *as he call'd it*, by her being too Tender of, and Favourable to them —— *Viz.* Tolerating their private Worship, Entrusting them in her Affairs, and the like.

This he did so unmannerly, as well as unjustly, that it not only Alarm'd all that part of the Family, but it provoked the Lady her self to that Degree, that she caused the Incendiary to be taken and turn'd out of her Chapel for three Years—— The Elder Children tho' they dare not Contradict their Mother, and are forc'd to acquiesce, and see the Wicked *House-Divider* Punished —— Yet they shew their Indignation at the other, upon all Occasions: One Day they broke into their End of the House, and pull'd down the little Chapels they had built for their Worship—— And have Threatned to use them still worse —— They have dress't up some of their private Chaplains *in Effigie*, and making a great Bonfire threw them in, and Burnt them: Nay they went so far, that tho' they are all Brethren and Sisters, yet these Mad, Elder Children broke into the Apartments of the other and Robb'd them, as if they had been Enemies, Plundred, Wounded and rudely Treated even their own Flesh and Blood.

This is the Historical part of the Matter, and it is a sad Story to tell—For unless the Lady herself apply some immediate Remedy to this Mischief, *it will certainly be the Ruin of the Family*; and no doubt, but if once it breaks out again, it will kindle such a Fire, as will not easily be quenched.

'Tis very unhappy, that truly the Aggressors Exasperated by the Correction given to their Priest, and Mad to see their Lady Mother take part with their Younger Brethren, who they thought to have Crush't at once; are averse to all Exhortations of Peace, and will hear of no Reconciliation, being prompted and egg'd on, by the Favourers of that Turbulent Priest; so that they will force the Lady to make use of her Authority, as well to Correct them, as to Restrain them, in order to preserve the Peace of her Family; and in doing this, tho' hitherto she has used them very Tenderly, yet they have already Treated her

very

very Undutifully and Indecently, Insulting her Officers of Justice, making a great Noise and Disturbance in her House, and that with very Disrespectfull and Unmannerly Carriage to those Employ'd in her Principal Affairs —— Using in private Saucy and Ugly Words, even of their Lady-Mother herself, very unbecoming Children, especially Children of such a Parent, who has Indulg'd them as she has done.

But as in all such Cases it happens, this Carriage has alienated the Minds of a great many of their own Party; and several both of the Elder Children and Servants, abhorring to see the undutiful Behaviour of their Brethren, and being sensible it tends to the Ruine of the whole Family; tho' they are for the Old Worship as well as they, and for preserving it in the Great Chapel as well as they, yet they have abandon'd them, and joining with their Mother the Lady of the Family, and with the Younger Children; they resolve to Oppose this Wicked Design with all their might. The other are so Mad to think *that these have forsaken them*, that they have made a Second Separation; and as the great Chapel is left in common to both, they meet in two private Chapels of the Family, which are appointed for the Common Use; *One* is up five pair of Stairs on the Top of the House, in fine a Great Turret which stands very high—It is a very odd Whymsical Structure indeed to make a Church of; 'tis Adorn'd within-side with Windmills, and Cresles, and without with Pinnacles and Weathercocks in abundance, and this is call'd the *High Church*—it is a pretty Place enough, only standing so high, It is pester'd with *Owles* and *Jack-daws*, that not only foul it within, but make such a Chattring and Shricking, that nothing else can be heard among them.

The other Chapel is below, on the first Floor of the House, upon the Level with other Churches, as well as Christians; and is a plain honest Building, Decent and Clean, free from Vermin on one Hand, or Superstition on the other, and is call'd *the Low-Church*, to distinguish it from the other. To this the Lady of the Family comes herself, and all her Sober Moderate Children and Servants; and these join'd *with the Younger Party*, will certainly be too Strong for the other at last—— Nay it is apparent that tho' the *High-Church* Children by their last Insolence did gratifie the Wicked loose part of the Servants, and so brought a great many over to their Number, yet their Extravagancies are so wild, that the sobereſt and most thinking, daily drop from them——— And we are not without hopes, but Time may allay this unhappy Ferment.

Indeed 'tis visible, that were it not for the Vitious Turbulent Spirit, of some of my Ladys Chaplains, the Peace of the Family would soon be restor'd: This the Lady, *who is Tender of them too*, was loth to punish; and was a great while very backward to come to Severities with them; but they have forc'd her to do it, for her own safety, and to prevent the Ruin of her Family——— She has therefore taken 2 or 3 of them to Task, since the Grand Incendiary was Censur'd, and now we hear she is so sensible of their Incorrigible Spirit, that Justice and the Good of her Children calling for it, her Ladyship is resolved to punish them all, if they give her any fresh Provocations by continuing their Insolent Behaviour——— And nothing but this wholesome Severity can save her and her Family from Destruction.

ADVERTISEMENT,

LONDON's Medicinal-INFORMER. Containing, 1. A brief Enquiry into the antient State of the Practices of Physick and Surgery in the World. 2. The present State of those Professions in *London*. 3. Quacks, rightly distinguish'd from other Practisers, characteriz'd, and chastiz'd 4. The Venereal Disease in its Cause, Nature, Signs, Dangerous Effects; best, most cheap, easie, safe, and private Methods of Cure, truly represented; in order to prevent Peoples being Ruin'd, either by that Disease, or by unskilful Pretenders to its Cure. By a *London* Physician. *LONDON*: Printed and Sold by *B. Bragg*, at the *Raven* in *Pater-Noster-Row*. 1710. (*Price* 1 s.)